

2002 Portfolio Synopsis



Victims of Torture Fund





This publication was produced by the DCOF/LWVF/VOT Technical Support Contract, a dedicated facility supporting the U.S. Agency for International Development's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, Leahy War Victims Fund, and Victims of Torture Fund.

Cover photograph © Ricardo Funari/www.socialphotos.com

Mission

The U.S. Agency for International Development, working through its Victims of Torture Fund, envisions a world free of torture where survivors, their families, and communities receive the support they need to quell their suffering and rekindle their connection to everyday life. With this aim, the fund primarily supports programs that help heal the psychological and physical trauma caused by torture. Additionally, the fund recognizes that communities, along with survivors, need to heal and recover. To this end, the fund supports programs that affirm the dignity of the survivor by restoring his or her position as a functioning and contributing member of the family and the community. The fund works through nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) overseas that (1) provide direct services to survivors, their families, and communities; (2) strengthen the capacity of country-based institutions in their delivery of services to survivors; and (3) increase the level of knowledge and understanding about the needs of torture victims.



Contents

Introduction	6
Global Initiative	
Capacity Building for Foreign Treatment Centers	8
Regional Initiatives	
Latin America/Caribbean	
Psychological Support for Victims of Torture	10
Southern Africa	
Program to Assist Victims of Torture	14
West Africa	
Counseling, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Victims of Torture	17
Country Programs	
Burundi	19
Democratic Republic of Congo	21
Ethiopia	24
Guatemala	27
Indonesia and East Timor	30
Republic of Kenya	34



Nepal	36
Peru	38
Rwanda	41
Sri Lanka	47
Tibet	50
Uganda	52
Map	32
Funding Guidelines	56
Project Partners	60

Introduction

The Victims of Torture Fund complements two other special USAID funds, The Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. The Leahy War Victims Fund responds to the needs of victims of conflict in war-affected countries. The Displaced Children and Orphans Fund provides for the care and protection of war-affected children, unaccompanied minors, and orphans. Like these two funds, the Victims of Torture Fund works primarily through non-governmental organizations to provide direct intervention and local capacity building.

Since 1997, Amnesty International has documented torture and ill treatment by state agents in more than 150 countries. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 3.6 million people died during the past decade and countless others suffered at the hands of opposition and government-led groups during periods of civil unrest. Torture is the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering on another person. Survivors of torture may suffer the prolonged effects of trauma, which can affect their ability to do tasks that are important to caring for themselves, their families, and their community.

Recovery from the effects of torture and political violence requires thoughtful psychological and medical attention. Treatment aims to restore the survivor's position as a functioning and contributing member of the family and community. Communities, along with family members, often need to be drawn into the recovery process to promote healing.

In keeping with its legislative mandate under the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, the U.S. Agency for International Development works through the Victims of Torture Fund to assist the rehabilitation of individuals who suffer from the physical and



psychological effects of torture. According to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, rehabilitation aims to empower the torture victim to regain the capacity, confidence, and ability to resume as full a life as possible. Toward this end, the fund administers treatment programs based in 26 countries that span four regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Near East, and Europe and Eurasia). Currently, the fund is supporting an estimated total of 45 treatment programs that attend to the medical, psychological, and social needs of torture survivors and their families. These programs include advocacy, training, technical assistance, and research.

This synopsis describes programs that are currently being supported by the Victims of Torture Fund (VOT) covering the period of 2001 through 2002. Additional activities for 2003 will be announced through future updates.

In the aftermath of systematic political violence, entire communities can display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, trapped in alternating cycles of numbing and intrusion, silence and re-enactment. Recovery requires remembrance and mourning. Like traumatized individuals, traumatized countries need to remember, grieve and atone for their wrongs in order to avoid reliving them.

—Judy Herman, M.D.
Trauma and Recovery
New York: Basic Books
1997



Global Initiative

Capacity Building for Foreign Treatment Centers

Implementing Partner Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)

Funding Period September 2000 - June 2004

Amount \$2,061,000

Purpose Strengthen the capacity of 15 treatment centers located in Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Enhance their organizational and financial sustainability, clinical capacity and services, and advocacy campaigns.

Objectives

- Assess the needs of participating treatment centers.
- Provide technical assistance to participating treatment centers on topics relevant to their needs, such as clinical advances and issues, fundraising, organizational development, and advocacy programming.
- Strengthen networks and capacities of treatment centers through periodic regional workshops.
- Support treatment centers through operational and technology grants.
- Build and maintain a Web site to facilitate communication among participating organizations, CVT, and experts in the field.



The Center for Victims of Torture works locally, nationally, and internationally to heal the wounds of torture. Founded in 1985, CVT provides care and rehabilitative services to survivors of government-sponsored or politically motivated torture and members of their families. Care is provided on an outpatient basis and is tailored to meet each client's needs. This frequently includes medical treatment, psychotherapy, support in the political asylum process, assistance in finding a safe and stable place to live, and basic living necessities.

CVT is using VOT funding to help provide practical, hands-on counseling supervision and ongoing, culturally appropriate training programs for refugee mental health paraprofessionals in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Through the International Capacity-Building Project, CVT is providing training and technical assistance to 15 treatment centers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, West Bank/Gaza, Peru, Guatemala, Romania, and Bulgaria. Under an extension of its existing cooperative agreement, CVT will add three new overseas treatment centers to the project this year.



Regional Initiatives

Latin America/Caribbean Psychological Support for Victims of Torture

Implementing Partners	Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IHR) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Funding Period	October 2002 - September 2005
Amount	\$1,050,000
Purpose	Provide psychological support for victims or relatives denouncing cases of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment before the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights. Extend IHR psychological training for use by CEJIL attorneys in presenting victims' or relatives' cases.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Advocate before the Inter-American Commission and Court in San Jose (Costa Rica) and Washington, D.C. (USA) on behalf of victims of torture. Ensure that the Commission's and the Court's decisions are upheld and observed at the domestic level.■ Form a network of specialists that provides psychological assistance to victims or relatives who present cases before the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights (Inter-American System).

- Design a methodology for the psychological care and assistance of victims or relatives.
- Provide attorneys and NGOs presenting cases before the Inter-American System with better knowledge on how to deal with victims who are affected by psychological trauma and how to handle cases involving victims of torture.
- Prepare reports on the psychological and physical trauma caused by cases of torture to raise awareness and increase attention on the issue of psychological reparations in the work of the Inter-American System.

During the dark era of the military dictatorships in Latin America, the use of torture was widespread as a means of intimidation, repression, and coercion throughout the region. Although democracy has begun to take root in Latin America and it is widely accepted that torture is a gross violation of any basic right, it continues to be a part of the reality of many Latin American countries and is practiced by government authorities and public officials.

Since its inception, the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights has provided an invaluable framework and legal structure for addressing cases of torture in the region. Aggrieved individuals are able to present cases of torture before the Commission and Court, which continues to play a vital role in exposing the practice of torture and allowing due process.

The Victims of Torture-funded project, implemented jointly by the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IHR), is designed to ensure that, in the short run, victims and their families are provided with the necessary psychological care while seeking justice and redress through the Inter-American System of Human Rights. In the long run, CEJIL and IHR expect that the Inter-American System will be sensitive to individual victims, especially torture victims, and the aftermath of their traumatic experiences. CEJIL and IHR hope that, in developing greater sensitivity to the role of psychological trauma, the Inter-American Commission and Court will issue recommendations and decisions that reflect a new awareness of torture cases.



CEJIL and IIHR also hope that added awareness could pressure the OAS member states in question to provide reparations to the individual victims and their families, sanction those responsible for such crimes, and create and implement necessary mechanisms to ensure that such atrocities do not recur. In doing so, the Inter-American System will have taken steps to ensure that the practice of torture is eradicated in the Americas.

Regional Initiatives

Southern Africa Program to Assist Victims of Torture

Implementing Partner	Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON)
Funding Period	One year
Amount	\$250,000
Purpose	Strengthen the capacity of human rights NGOs in the region to respond to incidences of torture and trauma.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Strengthen support mechanisms and networks within communities affected by torture.■ Provide assistance to victims of torture and violence through counseling and legal assistance.■ Raise public awareness about and enhance advocacy to prevent torture and state-sponsored violence.■ Support human rights activities that document atrocities and provide legal assistance to those victimized by torture.

Despite the formal commitments made by Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states to protect and promote human rights at national, regional, and international levels, gross violations continue. Human rights activists in the region have identified police brutality; torture; and cruel, degrading, and inhuman treatment as some of the most prevalent forms of human rights violations in southern Africa. The effect of such violations is to seriously undermine the nascent democratic processes underway in almost all countries in the region. State-condoned torture and police brutality comprise a grave threat to freedoms of expression and association. Most of the abuses have gone unpunished or have been covered up by the institutions responsible. Documented case studies include beatings, shock treatment, and extra-judicial killings. Victims of such torture and police brutality often experience difficulties trying to access the justice system and court cases are seldom brought to closure.

In 1996 southern African human rights organizations agreed to form a regional network of human rights organizations, the Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network (SAHRINGON). A key objective of the network is strengthening the capacities of member organizations through training and information exchanges. SAHRINGON

also undertakes regional advocacy and lobbying on key human rights issues. Through a grant from the Victims of Torture Fund, USAID will assist SAHRINGON in providing counseling and legal assistance. The funds will also help SAHRINGON target SADC governments through advocacy and lobbying campaigns and will support information dissemination, including publications and electronic networking. USAID will further assist in building the capacity of local human rights NGOs. This will include training on research, investigation, and documentation of torture cases; training in advocacy strategies; and linkages with other human rights NGOs in the region.

Regional Initiatives

West Africa Counseling, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of Victims of Torture

Implementing Partner	To be determined
Funding Period	December 2002 - December 2004
Amount	\$750,000
Purpose	Work with national and sub-regional social organizations, using a cross-border approach, to facilitate the return and rehabilitation of refugees and to improve their access to adequate information.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Strengthen local facilities and services in the psycho-social, legal, medical, and protection sectors to ensure they can respond to and prevent incidents of gender violence.■ Provide direct mental health services for traumatized individuals and increase the capacities of local mental health infrastructures.■ Promote non-violent conflict resolution and social reintegration of returnees among communities living in the cross-border area of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

The conflict in the Mano River basin arises from political instability in the three-border area of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia as it grapples with problems associated with continued armed conflict and post-conflict transition. The enduring regional conflict has disintegrated communities, destroyed infrastructures, stalled economies, and forced massive displacement of families internally and across borders. While the recent end of armed hostilities in Sierra Leone is an important step toward achieving harmony in the region, this fragile peace is currently challenged by the resurgence of violence in neighboring Liberia.

In collaboration with other USAID bilateral programs in the sub-region, the VOT-funded project responds to the urgent needs of refugees returning to Sierra Leone from Guinea and Liberia. In particular, this project focuses attention on treating refugees who have suffered from trauma associated with forced abduction, torture, maiming, and sexual abuse. The program seeks to provide accurate information that will ultimately facilitate the social reintegration of returnees and encourage peace-building dialogue in cross-border communities.

Burundi Initiative to Mitigate Acts of Torture and Strengthen Support to Victims

Implementing Partners	Search for Common Ground, Quaker Church, Ligue ITEKA, International Human Rights Law Group
Funding Period	One year
Amount	\$1,200,000
Purpose	Address and mitigate acts of torture and violence and strengthen the ability of communities and victims to respond and cope.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Expand counseling and treatment centers for women and their children who have been victimized by conflict.■ Strengthen community response, linkages, and advocacy through independent radio broadcasting nationwide and across borders to Burundian refugees.■ Expand psychosocial trauma healing through new counseling and treatment centers.■ Broaden a campaign of raising awareness of the brutality of torture, improve documentation and promulgation of cases of abuse, and extend judicial advice and assistance to victims of torture.■ Extend services through mobile legal outreach clinics for victims seeking legal recourse for violations.





War and endemic violence have plagued Burundi since 1962. The country is mired in an escalating socio-economic crisis that continues to be fueled by eight years of instability following the assassination of the first democratically elected president in 1993. Nearly a million people who suffered extreme trauma and abuse have been displaced by the conflict, unable to return to their communities of origin. Even with the signature of the Arusha Peace Accords and installation of the transitional government during the later half of 2000, two rebel groups remain outside the peace process, leading to further insecurity and abuse.

Human rights violations continue on a daily basis. Whether perpetrated by the army, civil militias or rebel groups, violations of the penal code with impunity persist. The Victims of Torture Fund-supported initiative draws on the expertise and presence of several implementing partners in Burundi. Together they are providing services to torture survivors and building a community response to the pervasive incidence of violence and abuse.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Victims of Torture

Implementing Partner	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Funding Period	April 2002 - June 2003
Amount	\$500,000
Purpose	Improve and expand community-based services for populations affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in North and South Kivu provinces.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase the access of communities and individuals affected by torture and SGBV to high-quality medical, psychosocial, and legal assistance.■ Improve the technical capacity and awareness of local actors and officials providing services to survivors of torture and SGBV.■ Through an umbrella grant, allow the local network of service providers and local associations and NGOs to identify the needs of and provide culturally appropriate services to beneficiaries.



Since 1994, the people of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have had more than one million refugees pass through their fields and towns. They have endured various wars, been terrorized by armed groups, and witnessed the destruction of the vital fabric of their communities. The physical and social service infrastructure of the region has been severely weakened and in many areas no longer functions. The second civil war, which began in the eastern DRC in August 1998, has since degenerated into a regional conflict.

During these crises, local and international organizations have documented thousands of incidents of torture and sexual and gender-based violence in the rural areas and urban centers of North and South Kivu provinces. Still, the true magnitude of the problem may be much larger than these numbers suggest. Many attacks occur in remote areas to which these groups have little access. Even in accessible areas, underreporting of abuses (as a result of the stigmatization of rape victims in some communities), fear of reprisals, collusion of authorities, or a lack of awareness about avenues of justice and available services limit the accuracy of estimates about the extent of the problem. It is clear that the legal and cultural systems that protect civilians from these kinds of



attacks, precarious even in peace, have been further eroded by years of protracted and generalized insecurity, economic depression, social disruption, and political clashes. Furthermore, some of the armed groups currently operating in the area appear to have embraced torture, rape, and sexual slavery as tactics of terrorizing the population. Acts of torture and sexual and gender-based violence constitute a serious threat to the medical, psychological, and social health of the men, women, and children caught between the rebel forces of the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie-Goma* (RCD) and the various militias opposing them.

The Victims of Torture Fund is addressing the issue of sexual and gender-based violence in North and South Kivu provinces through a grant to IRC, which plans to improve and expand services to victims.

Ethiopia Psychosocial Support to Deported and Displaced Children

Implementing Partner	Save the Children, Denmark
Funding Period	September 2002 - August 2004
Amount	\$175,000
Purpose	Address the psychosocial needs of Ethiopian families and children deported from Eritrea through counseling and community-based support services.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Establish a database and conduct a survey of the physical and psychosocial needs of deportees in order to develop appropriate levels of counseling and other interventions.■ Train community leaders to identify signs of trauma and to direct cases to paraprofessionals within the community who have been trained to operate group counseling sessions for moderate psychosocial problems. Severe trauma cases will be referred to a professional counseling center that is better able to treat more complex cases.■ Provide counseling services.■ Monitor results of program activities.



As a result of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict, an estimated 95,000 Ethiopians living in Eritrea were deported or returned to Ethiopia between May 1998 and August 2001. The number of people repatriated into Ethiopia increased significantly between late 2000 and mid 2001, with an average of 1,000 arriving weekly. Although this rate has reduced considerably, mandatory and induced returns continue. In addition, after Eritrea's independence in 1991, Ethiopians were forcibly deported from Eritrea, many having to walk back into Ethiopia through the physically demanding Danakil Depression. This deportation had a devastating psychological effect on many Ethiopians who were living in Eritrea.



Despite limited interventions to alleviate the physical needs of the returnees, almost no attention has been given to the various degrees of trauma and abuse suffered during the deportation process. Deportees report experiencing or witnessing various forms of trauma, such as the death or murder of a family member, torture, isolation from lost or kidnapped family members, and imprisonment. Many to live in desperation and poverty.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable. Results from recent studies indicate that children,

especially those above the age of 12, are emotionally distressed as they constantly compare their current situation with their previous lives. The protection traditionally provided by parents or guardians has deteriorated because of family disintegration and separation. Some become aggressive, rebellious, withdrawn, or depressed, and as a result engage in destructive activities such as dropping out of school, streetism, alcoholism, prostitution, and addiction.

USAID is targeting support for the needs of deportees through a rehabilitation program. VOT funds complement this support by providing counseling and treatment services that address the psychosocial needs of people traumatized by the abuse associated with targeted deportation.



Guatemala

Program to Restore Dignity and Psychological Well- Being of Victims of Torture

Implementing Partners

Through a cooperative agreement, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the work of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), local NGOs, and the Ministry of Health.

Funding Period

2000 - 2003

Amount

\$1,326,000

Purpose

Dignify the victims of Guatemala's armed conflict and facilitate the healing process for survivors through the exhumation of clandestine cemeteries and provision of mental health support.

Objectives

- Complete forensic exhumations and analysis to identify victims and enable families to bury the remains of their loved ones in a dignified manner as a first step forward to recovery.
- Provide mental health services to survivors of the internal conflict to improve their ability to function effectively.
- Facilitate the delivery of mental health services from NGOs and the Ministry of Health under the National Mental Health Plan.

Accomplishments

- More than 175 exhumations of clandestine cemeteries or mass graves in the past two years.
- More than 5,000 direct recipients of mental health services in the past two years.
- More than 40,000 indirect beneficiaries living in affected communities where services have been provided.

The aftermath of the 36-year armed conflict in Guatemala (1960 to 1996), considered to have been one of the largest and bloodiest in all of Latin America, left more than 200,000 people dead or disappeared, a million refugees and internally displaced individuals, and thousands of widows and orphans. The Historical Clarification Commission, a national truth commission supported by the United Nations, documented 669 massacres, the vast majority committed by the Guatemalan army in rural Mayan villages in the northwest highlands. The massacres were part of a strategy of terror and those killed were generally buried in mass graves and clandestine cemeteries without proper burial practices appropriate to the indigenous culture.

Since 1999, USAID and the Dutch government have been supporting the efforts of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala and local

mental health organizations working with survivors of the massacres and their families. Through a program managed by the UNDP, forensic exhumations identify victims and allow family members and friends to properly bury loved ones. Mental health experts accompany and support survivors during and after the trauma of the exhumation process. By expanding geographic coverage this year, this VOT-supported program will be able to increase direct assistance to a greater number of survivors as well as institutionalize the provision of mental health services for victims and their families.



Indonesia and East Timor

Survivors of Torture

Implementing Partner	International Catholic Migration Commission
Funding Period	August 2002 - February 2004
Amount	Indonesia \$390,000 and East Timor \$380,000
Purpose	Decrease and prevent the long-term debilitating effects of torture on individuals, families, and communities.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Improve the technical ability of local NGOs and community specialists, especially women, to better identify, interview, assess, and provide quality services to victims of torture.■ Strengthen the capacity and professional skills of local NGOs in advocacy, strategic planning, fundraising, working with volunteers, and organizational management.■ Promote networking among NGOs dealing with victims of torture in Indonesia and East Timor and encourage linkages with international networks.■ Provide small grants to local NGOs to improve their ability to respond to an increasing number of torture victims.



Indonesia and East Timor have both experienced forms of systematic violence committed by state and militarized groups with the intent of terrorizing and intimidating people who oppose their ideology.



During the past three years, widespread political, ethnic, and religious violence has affected communities in eight Indonesian provinces, particularly in Aceh and Papua. Often the most vulnerable people are human rights activists, women, and young people. In East Timor, citizens are grappling with the trauma of the extreme violence surrounding the August 1999 referendum vote on independence and acts of violence during the preceding 25 years of Indonesian rule.

Although more than 1.5 million people from both countries are displaced because of the violence, politically motivated torture directed against individuals has been the most threatening issue. The number of reported victims of torture in Indonesia and East Timor has increased substantially during the past year, as has the strain on local NGOs to treat victims. As the VOT's implementing organization, the International Center for Catholic Migration will be working to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs in Indonesia and East Timor to address the growing need for expanded assistance to victims of torture.

Discussion on the subject of torture is extremely suppressed, and attempts by investigative commissions have rarely resulted in justice being served.





Republic of Kenya

Program to Address Needs of Victims of Torture and Trauma

Implementing Partner	United States International University-Africa (USIU-A)
Funding Period	April 2002 – April 2005
Amount	\$1,405,000
Purpose	Develop a training program and comprehensive services to support torture victims in Kenya.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Research appropriate treatment methodologies for torture victims with emphasis on innovative methods, such as Multi-sensory Trauma Processing (MTP).■ Expand counseling and treatment services for torture survivors, including refugees.■ Increase legal assistance to victims of torture and trauma.■ Support ongoing treatment programs through university-sponsored interventions where needed and requested.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Trained five counselors in MTP in the United States. These individuals will train other trainers.■ Formed a research committee for a VOT study and developed a research protocol.■ Established a project implementation unit in USIU-A.



The ongoing instability in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region is generating large numbers of displaced people and refugees who are settling in Kenya from the neighboring countries of Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Burundi. Within Kenya, national tensions arising from ethnic and tribal clashes during 1991 and 1997 continue. While the clashes have subsided, violence against and torture of Kenyan citizens in police custody and prisons continue intermittently.



A large number of survivors suffer prolonged and psychologically debilitating effects of torture that can last a lifetime. Psychological support and treatment modalities available to both Kenyan citizens and refugees are either limited or costly, eliminating options for many who require treatment. Furthermore, there are not enough trained counselors to adequately treat survivors.

USAID hopes to remedy this situation by enhancing the capacity of selected organizations and individuals to address the long-term effects of torture. Through a grant to the United States International University-Africa, the Victims of Torture Fund will help meet demand for affordable services. The university has begun training counselors and will promote psychosocial interventions and disseminate appropriate resources through partner organizations.

Regional and national tensions highlight the need for efforts to treat victims of torture, rape, and other kinds of abuse in Kenya.

Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors and Capacity Building for Health Professionals

Nepal

Implementing Partner	Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT)
Funding Period	June 2002 – August 2004
Amount	\$600,000
Purpose	Provide comprehensive rehabilitation and care for torture survivors and their families and develop skilled human resources to support victims of torture and document cases of human rights violations.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Expand medical, social, and psychological treatment and rehabilitation services at the Biratnagar Sub-center to support an increased number of rural torture survivors and their families.■ Conduct fact-finding missions to record human rights abuses.■ Train health professionals at the district level in the rehabilitation of torture survivors and the proper documentation and reporting of torture cases.■ Establish a shelter-based rehabilitation center for the comprehensive care of female trauma victims and their families.

- Conduct mobile clinics to reach torture survivors in remote areas and to increase community awareness on human rights.
- Train counselors and establish services for torture survivors in 10 of the districts most affected by the insurgency.



The ongoing, six-year-old Maoist insurgency has claimed thousands of lives and taken a tremendous toll on Nepal's economic development. Despite constitutional guarantees and legal protection, reports of torture and human rights abuses by the Maoist rebels and security forces are increasing substantially, particularly in insurgency-affected regions.

Through a grant to Nepal's Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT), the Victims of Torture Fund is supporting a program for the rehabilitation of torture victims and their families. CVICT aims to treat 400 survivors and 100 family members during the two-year program period. In addition, CVICT will conduct six fact-finding missions in Nepal in order to prepare independent human rights violation reports, create public awareness about torture and human rights issues, and disseminate information on the center's activities.

To date, CVICT has provided rehabilitation services to 54 torture survivors and family members at the Biratnagar Sub-center; trained 46 professionals in medico-legal examination, documentation, reporting, and rehabilitation; and reached 195 victims through mobile clinics.

Because research shows women are less likely to come to the center due to family pressures, CVICT will establish a shelter-based program to provide the environment necessary for their care.



Mental Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Support to Victims of Torture and Political Violence

Peru

Implementing Partner	Center for Psychosocial Attention
Funding Period	May 2002 – May 2004
Amount	\$350,000
Purpose	Alleviate the consequences of political and social violence through mental rehabilitation and improved quality of life for victims of torture and their families.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide for the mental, physical, and social recuperation of victims and their families.■ Create self-help groups in communities where exhumations will take place.■ Train human rights promoters on how to work with victims of torture.■ Develop and strengthen a network for mental health services and human rights.■ Provide technical services to key state and civil society organization on the development of social policies.



- Support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Center for Psychosocial Attention.

Accomplishments

- Provided humanitarian support services to 30 victims and their families.
- Counseled more than 300 people, mostly women between the ages of 31 and 40.
- Prepared 106 cases of victims of torture for presentation before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during six public audiences.
- Provided psychological support to family members of exhumed bodies buried in collective graves.
- Conducted psychotherapy sessions with 52 displaced children.
- Held workshops for displaced victims of past political violence living in shantytowns.



Peru's violence particularly affected populations living in the country's remote mountain and jungle regions.

Between 1980 and 2000, during a prolonged period of violence in Peru, thousands fell victim to abuse. A large number of people died, disappeared, or were tortured. Dozens of mass graves dating from 1980 to the mid-1990s were identified during 2001. In 2001, the government decreed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate abuses, seek redress, and address the underlying causes of the violence through recommendations aimed at preventing similar abuses from happening in the future.

USAID's Victims of Torture Fund is helping to provide counseling and other forms of assistance to those directly affected by torture, abuse, and political violence through a grant to the Center for Psychosocial Attention. The Center is affiliated with the office of the National Human Rights Coordinator, which sponsors a network of 61 local nongovernmental organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights. The grant is supporting multiple activities aimed at assisting victims and their families and the ongoing work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Rwanda Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Project

Implementing Partner	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Funding Period	March 2002 - November 2004
Amount	\$627,378
Purpose	Increase the capacity of government, national, and community-based institutions to develop and institutionalize appropriate responses to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in an effort to prevent future cases of abuse and to support and protect those who have become victims.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase awareness of SGBV through advocacy, information, and media campaigns.■ Strengthen the capacity of Rwandan ministries to respond to cases of SGBV and to advocate for its prevention.■ Sensitize police, <i>Gacaca</i> judges, criminal investigators, and health officials through training on the psychological impact of SGBV and appropriate responses.■ Provide survivors of SGBV with counseling before and after they present testimonies during trials.■ Develop and implement community-based prevention and support programs across Rwanda.

Accomplishments

- On June 4, 2002, IRC held a national conference to bring stakeholders together to outline program objectives, discuss key issues, and ensure endorsement from appropriate ministries.
- In August 2002, IRC began conducting a survey among women of reproductive age to document the incidence of abuse before, during, and after the genocide. Survey findings will be used to better understand what types of services can best assist the victims in the long term.
- The media campaign, started in June 2002, is intended to place issues of sexual and gender-based violence at the forefront of national and community agendas. The campaign hopes to increase awareness among survivors of available services within each sector, district, and province of the country.
- Since June 2002, local NGOs are developing sensitization and training materials as part of an overall effort to strengthen the capacity of police, *Gacaca* judges, health officials, leaders, and key community members in understanding and responding to the needs of survivors.



Rwanda Advancing Healing and Reconciliation and Preventing Retraumatization

Implementing Partner	Trauma Research, Education and Training Institute (TREATI)
Funding Period	12 months (dates to be determined)
Amount	\$337,621
Purpose	Provide psychological assistance, training, and resources to promote emotional healing among genocide survivors and to aid national reconciliation.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase awareness among the Rwandan population on how to cope with and prevent trauma.■ Educate people on the root causes of genocide and how to prevent it.■ Assist the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission in helping the <i>Gacaca</i> process to proceed in a sensitive and empathetic manner.■ Limit hostility that may be generated between groups during the course of the <i>Gacaca</i> process and help the population to use <i>Gacaca</i> as an avenue for reconciliation.

- Develop sensitization and training programs for local and international NGOs on trauma coping and healing.
- Conduct a nationwide media campaign on trauma coping and healing.
- Develop and implement community-based prevention and support programs across Rwanda.



An estimated 700,000 people were killed in one hundred days during Rwanda's genocide of 1994, which uprooted over 2 million people who fled to neighboring countries. The killings were accompanied by wide-scale rape and massive psychological trauma at all levels of society—for the survivors, returnees, passive bystanders, and accused perpetrators, as well as their families and communities.

Rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence were forced onto unwilling participants to humiliate and demoralize women, their families, and their communities.

Justice is being rendered through *Gacaca*, a grassroots adjudication system inspired by Rwandan tradition, to more than 110,000 detainees currently held on genocide-related charges. However, it is believed that most rape and sexual torture survivors may not come forward to participate in the *Gacaca* trials because of the negative stigma of rape, fear of reprisal, and lack of supportive services. *Gacaca* has the potential to renew tensions as witnesses testify and perpetrators are tried for their alleged crimes. The process is expected to unleash new accusations; re-ignite unspoken memories; heighten the existing trauma of survivors, their families, and the families of the accused; and intensify divisions within the community.

Between 1990 and 1994, an estimated 250,000 were raped, leading the Special Rapporteur for Rwanda to state, “In Rwanda, rape was the rule and its absence was the exception.”

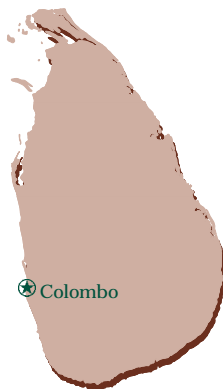


In response to the current situation, the USAID Victims of Torture Fund has provided a grant to the International Rescue Committee to address the issues associated with sexual and gender-based trauma and the *Gacaca* process, in particular strengthening services to victims and preventing further abuse. USAID will also be supporting the Connecticut-based Trauma, Research, Education and Training Institute (TREATI), which will train trainers, conduct radio programs, and work with leaders to promote trauma healing and reconciliation through *Gacaca*.

Sri Lanka Assistance to Victims of Torture

Implementing Partner	To be determined
Funding Period	Two years
Amount	\$250,000 ¹
Purpose	Provide a specialized and concentrated focus on counseling services for individuals and groups, particularly children and women affected by systematic violence associated with Sri Lanka's armed conflict.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide individual, group, and family counseling for those traumatized by systematic violence by improving the quality of care and expansion of available services.■ Facilitate access to holistic care and tertiary care through community-based support groups, referral networks, and access to supplementary services at larger regional treatment centers outside victims' communities.■ Expand the community-based capacity to respond to incidents of terror and to meet the resultant needs of the victims within communities that are isolated by the conflict.

¹ The USAID mission in Sri Lanka is in the process of programming an additional allocation of \$1,500,000 to address the needs of survivors.



Since 1983, Sri Lanka has endured a long-term armed conflict in the north and the east between the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) and a terrorist separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The attacks on villages, internal displacement, indiscriminate shelling, landmines, and the consequences of family members joining the security forces or the LTTE have resulted in large numbers of Sri Lankans experiencing first hand systematic violence, terror, and torture, as well as social, cultural, and economic impacts of an extended war.

As a consequence of the ongoing war, violence of all derivations (domestic, communal, political, and ethnic) has increased dramatically. Sri Lanka's youth suicide rate is one of the highest in the world, and the World Health Organization has identified mental health problems as the country's most significant health issue; indicators of the tremendous stress on Sri Lankan families abound. The country's national infrastructure and capacity for service delivery have decayed in the course of this protracted conflict. Furthermore, GSL has scarce resources and has shown varying degrees of commitment in providing services to the people living in the north and east. Primarily for security reasons, the movement of people, goods, and some

services to these areas is tightly controlled and often restricted, thereby limiting the access of those most affected to health, medical, and counseling services that can address their needs and assure their well-being.

USAID-funded VOT programs in Sri Lanka will address the immediate medical and mental health needs of affected individuals, primarily women and children in the north and east. VOT grants will also expand the capacity of community-based practitioners to respond to incidents of terror and meet affected individuals' needs.

As an internal conflict limited to an island nation with no contiguous neighbors at risk of destabilization, the war in Sri Lanka has not received much attention in the global arena. More significantly, the victims of the war have not received adequate international support.

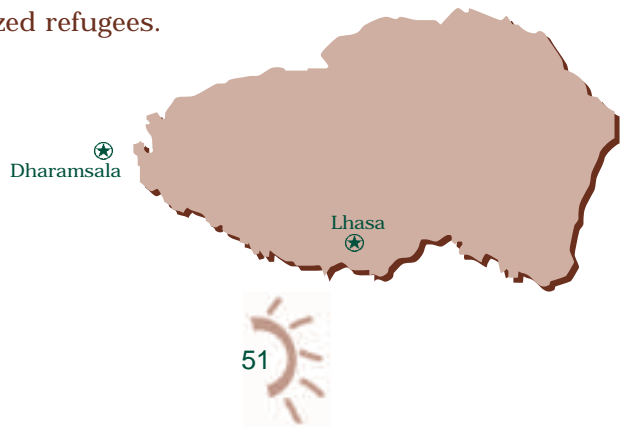
Tibetan Torture Survivors Tibet Program

Implementing Partner	Tibetan Voluntary Health Association
Funding Period	October 2002 - September 2005
Amount	\$185,000
Purpose	Provide comprehensive treatment services to torture survivors who escape into India from Tibet.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rehabilitate torture victims through medical treatment and rehabilitation services aimed at helping survivors adjust to their new circumstances. Treatment includes traditional and modern medicine, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, and counseling.■ Track progress of survivors through the creation of a documentation unit.■ Research the help-seeking behavior of Tibetan torture victims and the effects of traditional Tibetan medicine on psychosomatic disorders of survivors.



After his departure from Tibet, the Dalai Lama set up the Central Tibetan Administration as a government-in-exile in Dharamsala, a small hill station in the north Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. The Central Tibetan Administration oversees the rehabilitation of thousands of Tibetan refugees who followed His Holiness, the XIV Dalai Lama, into exile in India in 1959 and who continue to flee Tibet.

To assist torture victims among the 2,500 refugees who escape into India from Tibet each year, Tibetan authorities created the Tibetan Torture Survivors Program in 1991, which operates under the Tibetan Voluntary Health Association (TVHA). The Victims of Torture Fund grant will help TVHA continue to assist torture victims with medical treatment and rehabilitation services. Although the program initially focused on providing medical treatment to Tibetan torture survivors, it has expanded to offer more holistic services that include psychological treatment, rehabilitation, and documentation. The program also trains healthcare personnel in identification, management, and treatment of traumatized refugees.



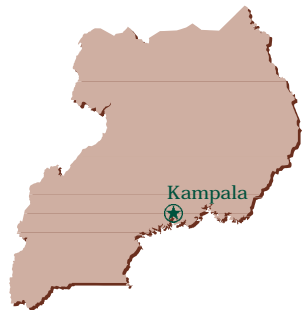
Uganda

Community Resilience and Dialogue

Implementing Partners	A consortium led by the International Rescue Committee with AVSI, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children/Denmark, and Save the Children/UK.
Funding Period	September 2002 – August 2007
Amount	\$1,655,000
Purpose	Strengthen the prospects for stability and readjustment through comprehensive treatment services in areas severely affected by destabilizing insurgent forces.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provide counseling and treatment services at reception centers for formerly abducted children and other victims of torture, including assistance in reintegrating them with families and communities.■ Strengthen support mechanisms and networks within communities to address the needs of victims of torture.■ Treat war- and torture-affected communities as a whole to avoid stigmatization of individuals.■ Coordinate with key local government structures and partner with Ugandan NGOs and civil society.



- Advocate on behalf of victims and raise the level of local and international public awareness about the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)'s and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)'s abduction of children and use of child soldiers.
- Document human rights abuses in affected districts and provide legal assistance to those victimized by the LRA, ADF, or others.
- Document and share lessons learned and best practices.



Since late 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has been terrorizing the inhabitants of northern Uganda, notably in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader. Noted for their random and exceedingly brutal attacks, the LRA has avoided police or military force by conducting a campaign of terror against civilians. Due to the unpredictable and often deadly nature of the attacks, the civilian population lives in a constant state of fear and uncertainty. Abduction is common, especially of children who are used as guides, porters, or concubines. Those who try to escape, or who outlive their usefulness, are brutalized and often summarily executed.

Displaced by the violence, many families and children continue to live in camps in lamentable conditions, too afraid to return to their homes. People living in the western Ugandan districts of Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Kabarole have suffered similar abuses at the hands of the Allied Democratic Forces since 1996. A recently completed survey shows that formerly abducted children were beaten and suffer from trauma and that girls were either forced into marriage at a young age or were defiled, many experiencing early pregnancies without adequate care.

Without adequate support and under present conditions of continued uncertainty, formerly abducted children who return to their families and communities risk prolonged psychological trauma, damaging prospects for their productive engagement in the future. Through a concerted effort on many fronts, the Victims of Torture Fund-supported activities aim to help children and their families readjust and reintegrate with improved chances for regional security.

Abducted children lived under constant threat of brutal murder and violence against their families if they failed to perform duties or tried to escape.

Funding Guidelines

The following information is provided for organizations interested in applying for funding from the Victims of Torture Fund. It is intended to provide general guidelines, but not the definitive criteria of country-based programs.

Grantees

Country-based programs are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements to domestic, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations that are registered with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation. Grantee organizations work in partnership with local NGOs capable of implementing the project and other international agencies working with the needs of torture survivors, their families, and communities.

Additional information on funding guidelines can be obtained by contacting the USAID in-country mission or by contacting the manager of the Victims of Torture Fund, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address noted on the inside back cover of this publication.

Funding

Funds from the Victims of Torture Fund are largely transferred to USAID's overseas missions. The missions manage and negotiate grants and cooperative agreements. Additionally, USAID/Washington manages multiple country programs

that strengthen the capacity of organizations to deliver services and improve knowledge of treatment.

Proposals

Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include Annual Program Statements (APS) and Requests for Applications (RFA). Information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission or through USAID's website at ***www.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement/***. Unsolicited proposals can be submitted to USAID missions or to the Victims of Torture Fund manager.

Outcomes

The Victims of Torture Fund supports programs that contribute to the improved, sustained functioning of torture survivors, their families, and their communities. To accomplish this goal, programs must:

- Improve the physical, mental, social, and legal condition and function of torture survivors, their families, and communities.

- Increase the capacity of organizations and individuals to improve function.
- Increase knowledge and dissemination of findings related to long-term improvement in function.

Selection Criteria

Although selection criteria for funding may vary from country to country and program to program, decisions are guided by five principles that derive from the set of desired outcomes:

1. Interventions should keep in mind the recovery needs of individuals, families, and communities.
2. Interventions should be culturally appropriate, keeping contextual factors foremost in mind.
3. The focus should be on settings where the potential for restoring functionality is the greatest and improvements can be sustained.
4. Grantees should be prepared to demonstrate the impact of interventions in terms of improvements in the functioning of their clients (individuals, families, and communities).

5. The majority of grants will be for the treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture. Additionally, proposals for training and research will be considered. Applicants should respond within the following range of recommended effort¹:

- More than 80 percent of the grants for treatment should be directed toward the provision of services that directly benefit the client. The remaining 20 percent can be used for capacity building, strengthening, and organizational improvements.
- More than 60 percent of grants for training should be directed toward the improvement of skills and knowledge with the remaining 40 percent for follow up.
- More than 70 percent of grants for research should be focused on data design, collection, and analysis. The remaining 30 percent may be designed for dissemination to practitioners and the development of applications for the field.

¹ Proposals may vary from the recommended percentages but must justify why they do so.

Project Partners

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)

Tamaryn Nelson
1630 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 555
Washington, DC 20009-1053
phone: (202) 319-3006
fax: (202) 319-3019
e-mail: tnelson@cejil.org

The Center for Victims of Torture

Scott Charlesworth
International Project Manager
717 East River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55455
phone: (612) 626-1400
e-mail: scharlesworth@cvt.org

Centre for Victims of Torture, Nepal

Dr. Bhogendra Sharma
President
GPO Box 5839
Kathmandu
Nepal
phone: 977-1-373902
fax: 977-1-373020
e-mail: bsharma@cvict.org.np

Centro de Atención Psicosocial/ Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Carmen Wurst
General Coordinator
Trinidad Morán 417, Lince
Lima
Perú
phone: 511-222-0056
e-mail: cwurst@dhperu.org

Humanitarian Assistance

USAID/Sri Lanka
Jessica M. Davey
Project Manager
phone: 94-01-472-855
e-mail: jdavey@usaid.gov

Inter-African Network for Human Rights and Development (AFRONET) Project SAHRINGON

Pamela Mhlanga
Regional Coordinator
P.O. Box 31145
Lusaka
Zambia
phone: 260-1-251813/4
fax: 260-1-251776
e-mail: afronet@zamnet.zm



**Inter-American Institute for
Human Rights (IHR)**

Gilda Pacheco
Cecilia Truque
Apdo Postal 10.081
1000 San Jose
Costa Rica
phone: 506-234-0401
fax: 506-234-0955
e-mail: gpacheco@iidh.ed.cr
ctrunque@iidh.ed.cr

**International Catholic
Migration Commission (ICMC)**

Barbara Porter-Lauer
Regional Director for Indonesia
and East Timor
Jl. Terusan Hang Lekir I/5
Jakarta 12220
Indonesia
phone: 62-21-720-3910
e-mail: porterlauer@icmc.net

International Rescue Committee

Pierre Bry
IRC Country Director
P.O. Box 2961
Kigali
Rwanda
phone: 250-516175/ 76
fax: 250-513036
e-mail: irc@rwanda1.com

Michael Despinnes
IRC/Bukavu
Ave. P.E. Lumumba
Bukavu, South Kivu
Democratic Republic of Congo
phone (sat): 871-761274690
fax: 871-761274691
e-mail: ircbukavu@compuserve.com

Timothy Bishop
IRC Country Director
Plot 40 Mackenzie Vale, Kololo
P.O. Box 24672
Kampala
Uganda
phone: 256-41-288991
e-mail: cd@ircuganda.co.ug



Save the Children (Denmark)

Birgit Lundbak
Country Representative
P.O. Box 13375
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
phone: 251-1-504225
e-mail: redbarnet@telecom.net.et

Search for Common Ground

Mark Rogers
Legal Representative
Avenue De l'Amitie
Bujumbura
Burundi
phone: 257-241946, (257) 241944
mobile: 257-920732
e-mail: mrogers@sfcg.org

**Tibetan Voluntary
Health Association**

Kalsang Phuntsok
Project Officer
Central Tibetan Secretariat
Gangochen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
Himachal Pradesh
India
phone: 01892-22718
e-mail: health@gov.tibet.net

**Trauma Research, Education and
Training Institute, Inc. (TREATI)**

Dr. Laurie Perlman
22 Morgan Farms Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074
phone: (860) 644-2541
fax: (860) 644-6891

**United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)**

Christina Elich
Project Manager
6 Avenida 20-25, Zona 10
Edificio Plaza Maritima, sexto nivel
Guatemala City
Guatemala
phone: 502-337-0469
e-mail: Christina.elich@undp.org

**United States
International University**

Dr. Frieda Brown
Programme Director
P.O. Box 14634
Nairobi
Kenya
phone: 254-2-861940
e-mail: fbrown@usiu.ac.ke

For more information contact:



**Lloyd Feinberg
Manager
Victims of Torture Fund
USAID
Washington, DC 20523
(202) 712-5725 (ph)
lfeinberg@usaid.gov**



**Victims of Torture Fund
Technical Support Contract
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 789-1500 (ph)
(202) 789-1601 (fx)**

United States Agency for International Development

Washington, DC 20523

www.usaid.gov

www.victimsoftorturefund.org

